

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 HA-05 TRSE-00 /089 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 298938

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY

SUBJECT:MOVEMENT ON CYPRUS ISSUE--VEST-DIMITRIOU DISCUSSION

REF: STATE 294982

1. CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON EUR ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY VEST DECEMBER 13 FOR EVIDENT PURPOSE OF SEEKING  
FURTHER TO ALLAY HIS (AND PERHAPS ALSO GOC'S) RECENTLY-  
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AROUSED CONCERNS OVER DIRECTION AND STEADFASTNESS OF U.S.  
CYPRUS POLICY. HE PORTRAYED RECENT EVENTS--INCLUDING  
DENKTASH "OFFERS," CAGLAYANGIL NOVEMBER 22-26 STATEMENTS,  
BIRAND STORIES AND BRUSSELS NATO MEETINGS--AS CLOUDING WHAT  
HAD SEEMED RELATIVELY CLEAR AND STRAIGHTFORWARD CYPRUS  
ISSUE. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THESE MOVES PERHAPS  
REFLECTED SHIFT IN U.S. POLICY AND HAD SET BACK EFFORTS TO

RESUME SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. HE WAS ESPECIALLY UNEASY, HE NOTED, THAT AT NATO MEETINGS THERE HAD BEEN EMPHASIS ON NEED TO LIFT "ARMS EMBARGO" AGAINST TURKEY WHILE CYPRUS SITUATION HAD BEEN DISREGARDED.

2. IN RESPONSE, VEST REVIEWED BRIEFLY SEQUENCE AND IMPORT OF BRUSSELS MEETINGS, NOTING THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS IN DPC HAD NATURALLY FOCUSED THEIR ATTENTION ON MILITARY READINESS OF ALLIANCE AND THAT IN THIS CONTEXT IT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE

THAT CONCERN SHOULD BE EXPRESSED AT CONTINUING RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES TO TURKEY. THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE ALLIANCE AS SUCH, AND SPECIFICALLY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OR IN THEIR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS, HAD LOST SIGHT OF OR DISREGARDED THE IMPORTANCE OF REACHING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT. VEST ASSURED DIMITRIOU THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARDS CYPRUS OR TURKEY. WE HAD NEVER PUBLICLY LINKED CYPRUS AND THE U.S.-TURKEY DCA, BUT WE RECOGNIZED AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD NOT ENTER INTO EFFECT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE AND DEMONSTRABLE PROGRESS ON CYPRUS.

3. DIMITRIOU EXPOUNDED AT SOME LENGTH--AS HE HAD DONE EARLIER WITH COUNSELOR NIMETZ (REFTEL)--ON HIS SENSE OF UNEASE OVER TURKISH STATEMENTS AND INITIATIVES OF PAST FEW WEEKS. HE CHARACTERIZED THESE AS INADEQUATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SUPERFICIAL, IMPEDIMENTS RATHER THAN INDUCEMENTS TO THE RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT COULD NOT ACCEPT THEM OR INDEED REGARD THEM AS ANYTHING MORE THAN A "SIDESHOW," A DIVERSION FROM REAL, CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS. DIMITRIOU WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT IN SOME QUARTERS--AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION--THESE TURKISH MOVES MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PROGRESS SUFFICIENT TO JUSTIFY ASKING CONGRESS TO TAKE ACTION ON THE DCA. VEST SUGGESTED THAT THE GOC'S FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THESE INITIATIVES--INDEED ITS EXPRESSED NEGATIVENESS--COULD BE CONSTRUED AS UNWILLINGNESS ON ITS PART TO WORK TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT. IT WOULD BE MORE USEFUL, HE FELT, IF THE GOC WERE TO PRIVATELY PROBE TURKISH AND TURKISH-CYPRIOT INTENTIONS AND DETERMINE WHETHER THEY WERE IN FACT PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE AND TO NEGOTIATE IN EARNEST.

4. DIMITRIOU ASKED VEST WHETHER THE U.S. BELIEVED THE TURKS WERE SINCERE IN THEIR EXPRESSED DESIRE TO REACH A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT AND TO ENGAGE IN CONCRETE NEGOTIATIONS TO THIS END. VEST REPLIED THAT IT WAS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE TURKS RECOGNIZED THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH

THE U.S. AND WITHIN NATO WERE IN DISREPAIR AND THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT WAS NECESSARY IF THIS SITUATION WAS TO BE REMEDIED. WE COULD GIVE NO ASSURANCES, OF COURSE, THAT THE TURKS WOULD BE ABLE EFFECTIVELY TO TRANSLATE THEIR DESIRES INTO ACTION. DIMITRIOU DECLARED THAT, FOR ITS PART, THE GOC WAS PREPARED TO RESUME INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, EVEN BEFORE THE FEBRUARY 5 ELECTION. KYPRIANOU WAS NO MERE INTERIM PRESIDENT, AND IN ANY CASE BASIC POLICY WAS SET BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL--A BODY THAT WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED AFTER

THE ELECTIONS. THE GOC WAS NOW AWAITING A FIRM STATEMENT FROM THE TURKS THAT THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS WOULD NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY AND SUBMIT WORKABLE PROPOSALS; SUCH A STATEMENT, CONFIDENTIAL

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THEY FELT SURE, WOULD BE FORTHCOMING IF THE U.S. WOULD MAKE UNMISTAKEABLY CLEAR THAT THE ARMS RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT BE LIFTED UNTIL SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED ON CYPRUS. CHRISTOPHER

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